



10/D DF (NP)
7/16/03

PA-159A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
ROBERT BUCKINGHAM et al. : Examiner Carolyn A. Paden
Serial No.: 09/782,314 : Group Art Unit: 1761
Filed: February 14, 2001 :
For: METHOD OF PROCESSING :
ROASTED COFFEE :

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JUL 15 2003
GROUP 1700

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated June 30, 2003, the time for response to which is set to expire on September 30, 2003, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 2 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 3, 5, 6, 16 and 18 to read as follows:

3. (Twice Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6 including the further step of maintaining said purged containers in a generally upright position with said inert gas retained therein to thereby prevent the influx of air into said purged containers.

5. (Twice Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said step of grinding said roasted coffee directly into a container filling apparatus is carried out within a sealed enclosure having substantially all of the oxygen therein removed.